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Sigma Delta Epsilon-Graduate Women in Science

November 2012

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Renew Your Membership

This is just a gentle reminder that SDE-GWIS annual memberships expired on 6/30/2012. If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership for 2012-2013 by clicking [here](#). It only takes a few minutes!

Hello Omega Chapter Members,



You have all heard the old adage, "It's who you know and not what you know that counts." One of the main ways to connect with people professionally is on LinkedIn. Did you know SDE-GWIS has a LinkedIn group that you can join? There are currently over 500 members, and some great discussions and postings on the site! Most alumni associations and many professional organizations also have LinkedIn pages that you can join or follow. This is a great way to connect with people in your field, and see who your contacts know!

Another site that I have recently joined is [ResearchGate](#). You can upload your manuscripts, connect with coauthors, and receive updates when people you are following have a new publication. A similar site is [Google Scholar](#). There, you can see how many times your articles have been cited and by whom. You can also receive updates when someone cites your articles, which I really like seeing!

It is important to keep these sites up to date, since recruiters are looking at them, and when you get that elusive interview, the Human Resources Department and hiring managers will also be scrounging the depths of the internet to see what you have put out there. A positive online presence can only help you in getting that interview!

I look forward to connecting with all of you online!

Laura Ramsey, PhD
Omega Committee Chair and Chapter President

Info Needed for Omega Chapter Website

Have you won any awards, published a manuscript, gotten a grant funded in the past year? Send us the details and we will place it on the Omega Chapter website as a way to promote the accomplishments of women in science. Send your questions or contributions by clicking [here](#).

Brain Teaser of the Month



Click [here](#) to play a Thanksgiving-inspired game by BrainTraining101.com. See if you can correctly arrange the dinner guests around the table according to their preferences to sit near or far from certain people or food.

Omega Chapter is Growing!

We currently have 211 members spread across the United States as well as Canada, Ghana, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, Argentina, Italy, England, and Nigeria.

SDE-GWIS Membership Directory Now Online

Do not forget, you can now access our Membership Directory online. Simply go to the SDE-GWIS home page, click the Membership Directory link in the right-hand sidebar, and enter the username and password. If you do not know the login information, please contact Dr. Laura Ramsey, Omega Chapter President, by clicking [here](#).

Our Newest Members

Please help us welcome the following members who joined Omega Chapter during the past couple of months:

Claire Barrett; Austin, TX
 Dr. Kayla Chase; Oak Park, IL
 Caitlin Kroeger; Petaluma, CA
 Mandy Slate; Missoula, MT
 Tiffanie Stewart; Miami, FL

Featured Omega Member of the Month

Unfortunately, no one volunteered to be the Featured Member of the Month. If you would like to be featured in December (or any month), please request the biosketch template by clicking [here](#). The biosketch and headshot are due by the 21st of the present month to be featured the following month. The biosketch is very brief, so we hope everyone will eventually participate!

Academic Job Interviews

by Alli Coffin, PhD

Congratulations! You have been selected for an on-campus interview for a tenure-track position. Now what? In the previous newsletter I wrote about applying for faculty jobs. This time I will address the interview process: What to expect, and how to prepare.

The Schedule: Most interviews comprise one-to-two activity-packed days, including meetings with faculty members and administrators, meals with faculty and/or students, and the all-important "job talk." If you are interviewing at a Tier 1 research institution, your talk will focus on your research--both what you have done and what you plan to do. Some institutions will ask for a second, more informal, talk, often called a "chalk talk", where you and your chalk (or white board marker) will sketch out your research plans for the next 5+ years. If you are applying to a more teaching-focused school, your research talk should also showcase your teaching skills and demonstrate how students will be included in your research. Some primarily teaching institutions will ask for a sample lecture rather than a research talk, with the lecture either given to a group of faculty, a selection of volunteer students, or in some cases, during an actual class. Resources for preparing and delivering an academic job talk are available through [Tomorrow's Professor](#), [The Professor Is In](#), and [Science Careers](#).

The Questions: Interviewers will ask everything from "Tell me about your research" to "We rotate department chair duties every few years. How do you feel about being department chair?" Administrators want to know why you are a good fit for their institution, department chairs want to know what you add to the faculty, and students want to know your philosophy on mentoring. Practice answering these questions well in advance of your interview--you do not want to sound rehearsed, but you do not want to stumble through a question that you have not previously considered. [Princeton](#) has a good list of possible interview questions. The [University](#)

Volunteers Needed to Help with Fellowships

Get involved in SDE-GWIS, either as a Fellowships Committee Member or as a reviewer for the Fellowships Applications. Click [here](#) to contact Dr. Laurie Cook, Fellowships Coordinator, by December 15th, for more information.

Volunteers Needed to Help with Bulletin

Writers and copyeditors needed to help produce the SDE-GWIS *Bulletin* which is published three times per year. We are currently updating our files, so even if you have previously expressed an interest, please re-send your name and area of interest to Dr. Melanie McEwen, *Bulletin* Editor, by clicking [here](#).

Suggestion Box

Do you have any questions about Omega Chapter or national SDE-GWIS? Do you have suggestions for fostering or enhancing interactions among Omega members or strengthening the presence of Omega Chapter within the national organization? We want to hear from you! Please send us any and all suggestions by clicking [here](#).

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[of Maryland](#) also has a good list, including insight into what these questions really mean.

The Approach: Study the institution's website: What is their mission, and how can you help fulfill it? Who is in your potential department, what do they study, and how do you complement existing strengths? What do you need to succeed, including start-ups funds and less tangible resources like office support and teaching assistant positions for graduate students?

Finally, ask friends and colleagues for help. Practice answering interview questions, and by all means practice your job talk. Good luck on your interviews!

Beware of Red Flags from an Interviewer

by Melanie L. McEwen, PhD

During an interview, most job candidates are extremely focused on how they are presenting themselves...what they say, how they say it, their body language, eye contact, have they asked enough questions, given enough details, given too many details, etc. As important as those things are, you should also pay close attention to what the interviewer discloses to you in the course of the conversation, not only through words but through body language. Paying attention to such clues can alert you to a potentially dysfunctional work situation. Sherri Edwards of Resource Maximizer has come up with a list of red flags to which you should pay attention, such as whether or not the interviewer(s) arrived on time. You can view the full article by clicking [here](#).

Have you encountered any red flags during an interview? [Let us know](#) so we can share them with everyone else.

Fitting It All In

by Melanie L. McEwen, PhD

Let us face it: Our lives are full. Sometimes it seems nearly impossible to get everything "required" done each day, impossible to fit in time for ourselves, impossible to achieve that elusive "work-life balance". We have all probably been told that improving our time management skills and delegating can help. However, Rebecca Dion, regional director of Behavioral Health Residential Services at Northwestern Human Services, has helped produce a very informative guidebook with many suggestions, along with a handy worksheet, to help you achieve work-life balance. The full article can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Stay happy and healthy, and we will "see" you in December.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Ramsey, Omega Chapter President and National Omega
Committee Chair

Dr. Allison Coffin, National Omega Committee Member

Harmony Hancock, National Omega Committee Member

Dr. Melanie McEwen, National Omega Chapter Liaison, Omega
E-Newsletter Editor, and *Bulletin* Editor

"United in Friendship through Science."

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